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FACT SHEET

Alternative Development Program – Southwest (ADP/SW)

OVERVIEW

USAID is working with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) to increase agriculture sector jobs and income and to increase the confidence of Afghans in their government. Furthermore, in key poppy-prone regions, USAID supports the creation of licit alternatives to poppy production through rural economic development and investment in high-value alternative crops. Through the three-year Alternative Development Program – Southwest (ADP/SW), USAID increases commercial agriculture opportunities, improves productivity in key high-value agriculture value chains, and creates rural employment to increase household incomes in Farah, Hilmand, and Uruzgan provinces.

In southwestern Afghanistan, USAID is providing economic opportunities for farmers and laborers in an effort to discourage further spread of opium crops and to minimize the impact anti-government elements have on an impoverished, isolated region. All program activities work together to solidify the region's economic value chains. Canal improvements help farmers increase crop production, while re-surfacing roads ensures that farmers can more effectively bring their produce to market. USAID is helping farmers, private entrepreneurs, and business organizations forge strong strategic partnerships with GIRoA provincial and district authorities, as well as local councils, community leaders, and Afghan and non-governmental organizations and businesses.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Improve high-value agriculture value chain productivity including farmer training, establishment of feed mills, veterinary services through para-vets, support for girls' schools program (high schools), improved trellising for grape production, and demonstration farms established and operated
- Establish alternative crop production and marketing (saffron), construct wholesale market in provincial center, install orchard drip irrigation systems, support women's poultry projects, and a large-scale poultry project at Bolan Farm in Hilmand Province
- Generate employment, gravel roads, rehabilitate canals, and drill wells

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Brought more than 73,000 hectares under improved natural resource management
- Converted nearly 6,600 hectares of land into high-value crops
- Trained 47,300 farmers in agricultural productivity methods
- Assisted 270 farmers organizations
- Provided mechanization activities for 350 farmers in Farah Province (150 female) including tractor and farm machinery equipment distribution (this represents the first time women's cooperatives are receiving such equipment to help modernize cultivation practices and improve yields)
- Created more than 110 commercial poultry farms in Hilmand Province
- Distributed nearly 550,000 fruit tree saplings and grapevines to 1,240 farmers in four districts of Hilmand Province